

DRAFT -- COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNCIL (CCC) MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. -- DE – ICN Room

Those in attendance included:

- ❑ Linda Allen, President, Hawkeye Community College, and CCC Member
- ❑ Brooke Axiotis, CCC and State Board of Education member
- ❑ MJ Dolan, Executive Director, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees (via conference call)
- ❑ Kent Farver, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges
- ❑ Rosie Hussey, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- ❑ Mike Knedler, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- ❑ Pradeep Kotamraju, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges
- ❑ Robin Madison, Senior Legislative Analyst, Legislative Services Agency
- ❑ Mary Ellen Miller, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- ❑ Terry Murrell, President, Western Iowa Tech Community College
- ❑ Moudy Nabulsi, Community College Trustee, and CCC Member (via conference call)
- ❑ David Palmer, Legislative Consultant, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees
- ❑ Steven Schulz, President, North Iowa Area Community College
- ❑ Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges
- ❑ Stephanie Weeks, Assistant to Jeremy Varner, Division of Community Colleges

I. Welcome and Introductions—Mike Knedler, Chair

Chair Knedler called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Members and presenters introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Meeting Notes—Mike Knedler

Chair Knedler asked for approval of the notes from the May 13, 2015, meeting of the CCC. It was

Action: The notes were passed unanimously by the CCC.

III. Division Updates—Jeremy Varner

A. Gap Tuition Assistance

Changes to the Gap Tuition Assistance program proposed by the department have been folded into the Senate education appropriation bill, SF 493. The changes are two-fold. The first set of changes shorten the financial “look-back” period, meaning eligibility will be based on the applicant’s family income over the previous six months rather than 12, as well as establish automatic eligibility for individuals approved for assistance under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The second set of changes add requirements to the program. Applicants who earn between 150 to 250 percent of the federal poverty level will be given priority for Gap tuition assistance. In addition, individuals eligible for financial assistance under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) or the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) are ineligible for Gap tuition assistance unless funding under WIA and WIOA has been fully expended.

B. I Have a Plan Iowa

The department has requested \$600,000 to continue providing the I Have a Plan Iowa career information and decision-making tool to schools, workforce centers, and others for one more year. The Secondary Career and Technical Education Task Force is studying career planning solutions and will make recommendations on this issue this fall. Due to concern that the system may not be funded after July 1, the department has proposed policy language to ensure student career and academic planning remains a priority and appropriate tools are utilized.

C. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

On May 22, Governor Branstad signed into law SF 501 to permit Iowa to join a state authorization reciprocity agreement (SARA) through the Midwest Higher Education Compact. SARA was developed to address U.S. Department of Education state authorization regulations issued in 2010 and with an effective date of July 1, 2015. Under the rules, postsecondary institutions must be authorized in states where students are enrolling in online courses. Obtaining authorization in all states was expected to be exceedingly expensive and labor intensive. SARA addresses the patchwork of state rules and fees by establishing regional compacts with the goal of requiring only a single state authorization process. The final bill continues important consumer protections while permitting Iowa to join SARA. Administrative savings of both cost and staff resources — projected 35 states will join in the near future. Consumer protection issue. Signed into law.

IV. IACCT Update—MJ Dolan, Executive Director

1. Legislative Session: MJ indicated the 2015 session has ended and several bills passed. The \$7.5M to Iowa's community colleges did not pass.

2. Iowa Association of Community College Trustees (IACCT) Conference: Indian Hills Community College is proud to host the 2015 Iowa Association of Community College Trustees Conference on **July 22-24**. The conference will provide attendees with opportunities for learning, networking, fellowship, and fun as trustees from all 15 Iowa community college districts gather together in Ottumwa.

3. Iowa Community College Presidents Retreat: Iowa's community college presidents held their annual retreat on June 3-4, 2015, at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs. It was a very good retreat with such topics discussed as legislative priorities; state general aid; workforce funding; K-12; and career and technical education. Kent Farver presented information regarding the Voluntary Framework Accountability (VFA).

4. Interactive Management Information System (MIS) Data Webinar: MJ indicated that DE MIS consultant, Vladimir Bassis, will be conducting two interactive MIS webinars for Iowa's community college trustees on October 21, 2015, 12:00-1:30 PM; and February 17, 2016, 12:00-1:30 PM. Both webinars will be conducted as demonstration/training for newly introduced web-based interactive maps, charts and data sets, containing Iowa community colleges educational data.

V. Regional Center Plan Proposal—Steven Schulz, President, North Iowa Area Community College; and Terry Murrell, President, Western Iowa Tech Community College

Presidents Schulz and Murrell shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding the “Regional Center Plan Proposal.” President Schulz indicated that equity is one of the driving factors of this plan, and the ability to grow our communities. He said that most of the students who leave our communities don’t come back. One of the advantages is that it allows students access where they live. The plan is as follows:

1. To facilitate the delivery of high-quality education (career and technical education and arts and science) programs for all K-12 students.
2. Development of a statewide regional center concept.
3. Building regional education centers throughout Iowa (or repurposing existing buildings).

President Linda Allen said that she made a presentation recently to the trustees regarding the success of Hawkeye Community College’s Western Outreach Center, which offers educational opportunities for residents in Grundy and Butler counties.

President Schultz hopes the Secondary Career and Technical Education Task Force will include this proposal in their final recommendations. President Schultz indicated that they have been working with the community colleges and they are committed to sharing. Rationale for the plan include the following:

- A. Less than 40 percent of Iowa’s nearly 1.6M working-age adults (ages 25-64) have at least an AA degree.
- B. Six in 10 jobs will require a postsecondary credential by 2018.
- C. Increased educational attainment of the state’s workforce has been shown to stimulate labor demand.
- D. Need to provide middle skills workforce.

Listed below is a definition of a regional center:

1. Community college and location K-12 districts determine offerings (CTE and arts and science).
2. Multiple school districts.
3. Formalized operational agreements between the school districts and the community colleges.
4. Thirty (30) mile service radius preferred.
5. No community college boundaries for attendance (tuition/fees follow the student—headcount stays with the resident community college).

CCC members asked how they could help in carrying the message forward. President Allen indicated a number of other states have been doing this; this is new to Iowa. President Schulz said we need to change the culture and mindset and show parents and students there is a pathway. President Murrell indicated that there is another component—advisory or sector board which is important in the business area (career academies). Chair Knedler asked to keep the CCC informed and the council will try and help when they can.

VI. For the Good of the Order

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next face-to-face meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2015, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., at the Department of Education’s ICN Room.